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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-1067)

DATE: 8/30/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP), aka  
Invaders  
RM

On 8/21/68 ME 338-R (Ghetto) furnished writer a copy of a two-page handprinted throwaway entitled "Black Liberator," issued by Invaders and distributed by them, about 200 copies, at Mason Temple on the night of 8/16/68 at the mass rally of Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and used by them to

1-157-1067 - BOP  
1-170-70-Sub - ME 338-R (Ghetto)  
1-157-556 - Possible Racial Violence, Major Urban Areas  
1-157-166 - SCLC  
1-157-953 - Black Power Infiltration, NOP and WOPC  
1-157-1258 - LANCE WATSON, aka Willie Wine  
1-157-957 - JOHN B. SMITH  
1-157-1125 - JOHN HENRY FERGUSON  
1-157-1019 - CHARLES HARRINGTON  
1-157-1173 - OREE MCKENZIE  
1-157-1275 - ERIC HOLMAN  
1-157-1277 - EMMETT HOUSE  
1-100-4575 - CLIFFORD LOUIS TAYLOR  
1-157-1403 - REUBEN WATTS  
1-157-1114 - DON NEELY  
1-157-1326 - RICHARD NEELY  
1-157-1349 - WILLIE ROGERS  
1-170-1024 - CHARLES BALLARD  
1-157-1277 - EMMETT HOUSE  
1-157-1116 - VERDELL BROOKS  
1-157-1229 - BEN BERRY  
1-157-1124 - MILTON MACK  
1-157-1263 - ARTHUR NORWOOD  
1-157-1230 - MELVIN SMITH  
1-157-1242 - WOMAX STEVENSON  
1-157- - JOHN GEARY, aka Gay (GARY WILLIAMS)  
1-66-1687-Sub - Dissemination

WHL:wp  
(27)

*wp*

157-166-482

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"blackmail" from SCLC \$500. Informant said that based on conversations with various Invaders on the night of 8/16/68, including JOHN B. SMITH and LANCE WATSON, aka "Willie Wine," this throwaway was written by SMITH and WATSON and run off on a mimeograph machine in the Neighborhood Organizing Project (NOP) office, 1310 Florida, primarily staffed by Invaders and umbrella group BOP personnel and funded by Office of Economic Opportunity through Memphis War on Poverty Committee. One Xerox copy of this is attached to each copy of this memo. The original is retained in 1-A section, 157-1067.

On the night of 8/16/68 JOHN HENRY FERGUSON told ME 338-R the Invaders were primarily trying to get publicity and to embarrass SCLC into giving them some money.

During the SCLC rally, about 50 Invaders boisterously entered Mason Temple, led by JOHN B. SMITH and LANCE WATSON. They carried the Black Power flag. Some of the Black Knights were guarding CORETTA KING, RALPH D. ABERNATHY, and Gary, Indiana, Mayor RICHARD HATCHER, who was a guest speaker.

HERMAN O'NEAL of SCLC joined the Invaders for a while. The situation was tense, as it appeared that Invaders would physically disrupt the SCLC convention.

Rev. JAMES M. LAWSON, JR., tried to quiet them, unsuccessfully.

Finally BARRACUDA, Chief of SCLC Security, and the Black Knights subdued the Invaders. It now appears they were trying to force SCLC to give them some money. Rev. ANDREW YOUNG of SCLC tried to smooth things over and to placate the Invaders. He said, "There comes a time in life when children should behave so as to be complimented rather than ridiculed." He said that when Resurrection City move (SCLC sponsored in Washington, D. C.) started and they had their "kick off" in Marks, Mississippi, the Invaders pitched in and helped and performed constructive services and did so in Resurrection City but now the Invaders must realize that irresponsible acts on their part will play directly into the hands of the white power structure. YOUNG was heavily applauded by the audience. This show of support to YOUNG by the crowd definitely subdued the Invaders,

who realized by then that they were grossly outnumbered.

Then SCLC President, Rev. RALPH ABERNATHY, in his speech said that everything the late MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., had promised the Invaders when he met with them in late March or early April 1968 would now be fulfilled by SCLC and ABERNATHY. He did not become specific. JOHN HENRY FERGUSON then came forth and shook ABERNATHY's hand.

Other Invaders recognized by ME 338-R at Mason Temple and participating in the Invaders demonstration were:

CHARLES HARRINGTON

EMMETT HOUSE

ERIC HOLMAN

OREE MCKENZIE

and a skinny, dark-complexioned girlfriend of WINE.

Source added that the Beale Street crowd of Invaders or BOP, primarily known as the Downtown Association, did not go to Mason Temple. This would include CLIFFORD L. TAYLOR, DON NEELY, RICHARD NEELY, and REUBEN WATTS.

However, CLIFFORD LOUIS TAYLOR claimed to have had a conference with SCLC Executive Vice President ANDREW YOUNG earlier on 8/16/68 at Claridge Hotel.

REUBEN WATTS was shot in the Harlem House, 300 block of Beale Street, on the night of 8/16/68. A berserk Negro came in and shot WATTS and another person. WATTS now wants to sue the Harlem House. He was not seriously wounded.

Source said Criminal Court Judge BEN L. HOOKS, who is on SCLC Executive Board, knows details of confrontation of Invaders with ANDREW YOUNG.

Informant said YOUNG gave Invaders a \$500 check dated 8/16/68, check # 21315, payable to "Black Organizing Project," for purpose of "aid to affiliate," drawn on Citizens Trust Company, Atlanta, Georgia. The signature appeared to be "CLAUDE H. McSIMON."

BOP and Invaders had photographs made of the check. They possibly plan to cash it at Tri-State Bank and plan to flash the photographs in an effort to "con" businessmen, foundations, church groups, and governmental agencies to give them funds, based on the fact that SCLC gave them funds.

The above information on 8/21/68 was orally furnished to Lt. E. H. ARKIN, Intelligence Bureau, Memphis PD.

On 8/19/68 Lt. ARKIN gave writer a copy of PD memo dated 8/19/68, based on interview with their undercover agent, code name [redacted] re Invaders activities 8/16/68 re SCLC. One Xerox copy of same is attached to each copy of this memo.

FOIA(b)(6)  
FOIA(b)(7) - (C)

# DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

ASD 4

TO: *Inspector G. P. Tines,  
Inspectional Bureau.*

FROM: *Lt. E. H. Arkin,  
Intelligence Section.*

SUBJECT: *Activities Invaders, August 16,  
1968.*

DATE: *August 19, 1968.*

*At 2:30PM August 16, 1968 informant went to 1310 Florida NOP Headquarters, and those present on his arrival were CHARLES BALLARD, and JOHN B. SMITH. He was advised by BALLARD and SMITH, That LANCE WATSON, aka SWEET WILLY WINE, EMMET HOUSE, were in a meeting with ANDREW YOUNG, of S. C. L. C. in regard to promises that DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING had made to BOP prior to his assassination. It was found out later that Andrew YOUNG of S. C. L. C., didn't feel that S. C. L. C. owed them anything. WILLY WINE and HOUSE returned to 1310 Florida after their meeting with ANDREW YOUNG. and were very mad. SWEET WILLY THEN composed a throw away leaflet and with the help of John B. Smith WILLIE ROGERS, ERIC HOLMAN, CHARLES CABBAGE, OREE MC KENZIE, and VERDELL BROOKS They started duplicating this leaflet., but they shortly ran out of paper so several of the Invaders went to 1217 Thomas and brought back some paper to be used.*

*Informant states he then went to Mason Temple where the S. C. L. C. was holding a mass rally, at which time the Mayor of Gary, Indiana, a Mr. Hatcher was to be the main speaker. Upon his arrival at Mason Temple he found that WILLY WINE, WILLIE ROGERS, BEN BARRY and MILTON MACK were already there. Shortly thereafter the following members of the Invaders arrived: JOHN B. SMITH, VERDELL BROOKS, OREE MC KENZIE, ERIC HOLMAN, ARTHUR NORWOOD, MELVIN SMITH, LOMAX STEVENSON and according to informant numerous others that he did not know. This group started passing out leaflets at the Mass Rally at Mason Temple. But at approx. 9PM they ran out of leaflets and informant along with ARTHUR NORWOOD, WILLIE ROGERS, And ERIC HOLMAN went back to 1310 FLORIDA and ran off 150 to 200 more copies of the leaflet and then took them back to MASON Temples. Informant stated there was a group of young of young boys passing out a throwaway leaflet known as the LIBERATOR, but this had nothing to do with the Invaders.*

*The Invaders then proceded inside the Temple along with a flag known as a Liberation flag that Willy Wine had brought back from Resurrection City, and marched down the aisles and around behind the speakers ' stand where they stood while the rest of the audience was sitting, and would sit, when the spectators stood. Their primary purpose at this Rally was to create a disturbance. At approx. 9:45PM Rev. Janes Lawson was at the Speaker's stand addressing the mass rally. And he stated that he thought that the LIBERATOR, that had been passed out at the Temple was not helping their cause, but was playing into the white man's hands. Lawson said he could see no value in any written article where the writer, would not affix his name to it.*

*One of the numerous members of the Black Knights who were acting as ushers at the Temple came and told John B. SMITH, that ANDREW YOUNG wanted to see him down in the basement. JOHN B. SMITH, along with WILLY WINE AND EMMETT HOUSE then*

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et al., did not get what they wanted from ANDREW YOUNG. But when JOHN B. SMITH, WILLY WINE, & HOUSE Returned they along with a Male Negro named JOHN GARY, aka GAY, left Mason Temple in a car driven by JOHN GRAY, and the rest of the Invaders stayed at the Temple. Informant states that both Rev. YOUNG, and REV. ABERNATHY in their speeches to the Mass Meeting stated that anything that Dr. King had promised to the Invaders, S. C. L. C. would see that the Invaders got.

*Around Midnight while informant was taking WILLIE ROGERS, ERIC HOLMAN & LOMAX STEVERSON and a female Colored believed to be ERIC HOLMAN's girlfriend home, ERIC HOLMAN asked WILLIE ROGERS how much S. C. L. C. gave the Invaders, to which Rogers stated: \$500.00.*

At 12:15AM Informant returned to Mason Temple and picked up EMMETT HOUSE, OREE MC KENZIE, and VERDELL BROOKS, and took them to 1644 Hanauer, Apt. 2. He again returned to Mason Temple, and by this time it was approx. 12:30AM and he picked up JOHN B. SMITH, WILLY WINE and a girl friend of Willy Wines, and them also to 1644 Hanauer. (the crib).

CC:

[illegible][illegible]

One of the most serious problems of the island people was their access to markets for their goods and the money they needed. The Government had been unable to do much about this problem, and the people were left with little choice but to sell their goods at low prices to the few traders who came to the island.



# Black Liberator!

Today S.C.L.C. Staff worker Andrew Young accused the Niggers of this town of the Murder of Dr. Martin Luther King. It was the bourgeoisie Ministers who sent for Dr. King to settle the Garbage Strikers dispute.

Well Mr. Young we're accusing you of selling our Poor Black Brother and sister out. We know while Poor Black Brothers and sisters were sleeping in the rain and Mud S.C.L.C. staff was sleeping in the Pitts Motel with white girls. We know that while our Black Sister and Brothers was eating cheese bologna the S.C.L.C. staff was eating steak and there was Good Food in ware house over D.C. S.C.L.C. took credit for the Construction of City, when the City actually was builded by the Invaders. It was the Invaders who provided protection for the Poor People from Marks to Wash. D.C. S.C.L.C. is it true that D.C.

felted that you were Not ready for the  
Poor People March? S.C.L.C. don't Play  
Black People in this town as fool. The INVad-  
ers are having their lives threatened because  
of their work in the Black community  
and S.C.L.C. could clear their name but  
refuse to do so. If you was true Brothers  
you would keep the Promise you made with  
us when Dr. King was living. You didn't  
keep the Promise you made with S.N.C.C.  
so we don't expect you to keep the one  
you made to us. You lied to S.N.C.C.  
that's why resurrection city was a  
failure. It hurt us to move against our  
brothers, but when you play white man  
games with black people we have no choice.

UJAMM Brother (come together Black  
people)

Uhuru (Freedom)

IF you Need us Call us we are  
the Black Peoples Army